

American Library Association

A Report on work with the blind,



**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY
AMERICAN PRINTING
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

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Report on Work with the Blind



*Containing a Partial List of Libraries
Having Departments for the Blind*



Obtained through the courtesy of the American Library Association

Reprinted from the "OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND" of March, 1925.

Published by the American Foundation for the Blind, 41 Union Square West, New York



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A
copy one

Report on Work with the Blind

Obtained from the Last Annual Report of the American Library Association, Through the Courtesy of the Chairman of the Committee on Work with the Blind

"The year's report of this Committee shows to a marked degree the value of a national organization such as the American Foundation for the Blind, to all libraries circulating embossed reading matter. An indication of the service which may be expected from the Foundation is the fact that the work assigned to its Bureau of Research includes a study of the best methods of teaching reading and of the best methods to be used in the production of embossed books in order that reading by touch may be made less laborious and the number of readers be correspondingly increased. Through the efforts of the President of the Foundation an appropriation for the publication of Braille books for the blinded soldiers was included in the budget of the Veterans' Bureau and a list of 68 titles will be available during the coming year. This will form a most valuable addition to the embossed literature of the English speaking world.

The *Booklist of revised Braille* which has been published for several years by the American Library Association as a temporary measure, has now been taken over by the Foundation, and is published in the *Outlook for the Blind*. Copies of current and of back numbers may be had without charge from the office of the Foundation, 41 Union Square West, New York City. At the invitation of the Foundation the Committee is con-

ducting a Book News column in the *Outlook for the Blind*.

For the past several years this Committee has been interested in raising funds for increasing embossed literature. This year the Committee and the Foundation are combining in their efforts to increase this fund. Through the generosity of some of those who realize the need of reading matter, the following books have been put into Braille: *The casting away of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine*, by Stockton, and *Hypatia*, by Charles Kingsley—gifts of the Boys Glee Club of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind and of Miss Eleanor Maynard; *The life and letters of Walter H. Page*, by B. J. Hendrick, vol. 1—gift of the Michigan Club of Detroit, Miss Ellen Sibley and others; *Lincoln and Slavery*, by Pillsbury—gift of the author; *The Episcopal church*, by Bishop Gailor, and the *Litany*—gifts of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church; *Courage*, by Barrie, *Calm yourself*, by Walton, *Phoebe*, by Rice, and the *Snake doctor*, by Irvin S. Cobb—gifts of Edward S. Harkness; *Dr. Gander of Youngland*, by Young, has been embossed from funds left under the will of Susan B. Merwin.

The work of transcribing Braille books by hand, which has been developed in this country largely through the efforts of the American

Red Cross for the benefit of the blind-
ed soldiers, has resulted in the or-
ganization of classes for teaching
Braille in various communities. The
Library of Congress reports that ex-
periments in the work of perfecting
the process by which hand-copied
books may be duplicated are being
continued and that experts encourage
the hope of satisfactory results.

With the increase of Braille litera-
ture the attention of librarians is
called to the fact that before estab-
lishing a department for the blind a
careful survey of the library facilities
throughout the surrounding states
should be made. To those who are
familiar with the problem of circu-
lating books by mail to a widely scat-
tered public, it is a well recognized
fact that a considerable territory is
covered before the number of readers
served justifies the maintenance of
such a department.

Some responsibility in the all im-
portant matter of safe-guarding eye-
sight rests with the library profession,
and librarians everywhere can help by
encouraging the use of well printed
books. Within the last few years
three special finding lists of books
which are printed in type somewhat
larger than that ordinarily used have
been prepared. The last list, which
is also the best, is *Books for tired
eyes*. It was compiled in the Min-
neapolis Public Library and published
at 35 cents a copy by the American
Library Association. It ought to be
not only owned but displayed in every
library in the country by way of sug-
gestion to readers.

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick continues
as trustee of the American Founda-
tion representing librarians and others

specially interested in libraries for the
blind.

*Partial List of Libraries Having De-
partments for the Blind*

*Note: Following a long recog-
nized policy, these libraries, with but
one or two exceptions, serve adjacent
states, and books unobtainable else-
where, are sent to the blind of any
locality.*

Key to abbreviations used

Braille, grade 1½—B1½

Braille, grade 2—B2

Moon Type—MT

New York Point—NYP

American Braille—ABr

Volumes—vols.

Alabama. Birmingham: Birming-
ham Public Library. B1½ titles 161,
vols. 275; MT titles 32, vols. 100;
NYP titles 33, vols. 60; ABr titles
263, vols. 403. Circulation approxi-
mately 360.

**California.* Sacramento: Cali-
fornia State Library. B1½ vols.
1617; B2 vols. 2315; MT vols. 3899;
NYP vols. 2465; ABr vols. 3023.
Music scores Br 1550; NYP 188.
Circulation 34,883. Embossed cata-
logs in Braille, New York Point and
Moon. Home teachers provided by
the state.

**District of Columbia.* Washing-
ton: Library of Congress. B1½ titles
778, vols. 2386; B2 titles 788, vols.
2352; MT titles 413, vols. 1314; NYP
titles 1171, vols. 2067; ABr titles 370,
vols. 567. Music scores Br 157; NYP
303. Circulation 29,692.

**Washington:* National Library for
the Blind. B1½ titles 566, vols. 791;
B2 vols. 9827; MT titles 17, vols. 20;
NYP titles 138, vols. 187; ABr titles
36, vols. 72. Music scores Br 450;

NYP 53. Circulation 8180. A few embossed catalogs, hand copied.

**Illinois*. Chicago: The Chicago Public Library. B1½ vols. 1027; B2 vols. 97; MT vols. 1290; NYP vols. 257; ABr vols. 1008. Circulation 23,719. Home teachers provided by the state.

Indiana. Indianapolis: Indiana State Library. B1½ titles 116, vols. 262; MT titles 24, vols. 24; NYP titles 392, vols. 664; ABr titles 28, vols. 91. Circulation 866. Sends books throughout the state. Home teachers provided by a local organization.

Iowa. Vinton: Iowa College for the Blind. B1½ vols. 1000; NYP vols. 4000. Circulation about 3000.

Kentucky. Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library. B1½ titles 74, vols. 260; NYP titles 207, vols. 274; ABr titles 5, vols. 20. Circulation 412. Home teachers provided by Kentucky Institute for the Blind.

Maryland. Baltimore: Enoch Pratt Free Library. B1½ vols. 159; MT vols. 343; NYP vols. 1252; ABr vols. 15. Circulation 332. Sends books throughout the state. Home teachers available.

**Massachusetts*. Watertown: Library of Perkins Institute for the Blind. B1½ titles 360, vols. 1395; MT titles 420, vols. 3006; NYP titles 469, vols. 1315; ABr titles 943, vols. 12,503. Circulation 15,056. Embossed catalogs in American Braille. Home teachers provided by Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Michigan. Detroit: Detroit Public Library. B1½ titles 272, vols. 536; B2 titles 17, vols. 27; MT titles 16, vols. 22; NYP titles 85, vols. 146; ABr titles 210, vols. 340. Circulation

1773. Has embossed catalogs. Home teacher on staff.

Saginaw: Michigan Free Lending Library for the Blind. Approximately, B1½ vols. 650; B2 vols. 300; MT vols. 500; and also "at least one copy of every publication in the New York Point and American Braille types." Embossed catalogs in the several types. Circulation 6832.

Minnesota. Faribault: Minnesota School for the Blind. B1½ titles 264, vols. 1339; NYP titles 897, vols. 6873. Circulation about 2429. Sends books throughout the state.

Missouri. St. Louis Public Library. B1½ titles 290, vols. 572; NYP titles 114, vols. 195; ABr titles 187, vols. 278. Music scores Br 6; NYP 6. Home teachers provided by the state. Work extended in January, 1924.

**New York*. Albany: New York State Library. B1½ titles 598, vols. 1476; B2 titles 1046, vols. 2524; MT titles 504, vols. 1657; NYP titles 2293, vols. 4530; ABr titles 993, vols. 1668. Music scores Br 413; NYP 1774. Circulation 20,885. Home teachers provided by the state.

Brooklyn: Brooklyn Public Library. B1½ vols. 264; B2 vols. 102; MT vols. 504; NYP vols. 701; ABr vols. 209. Music scores NYP 399. Circulation 1000. Circulates books in Brooklyn. Home teacher on staff.

**New York City*: The New York Public Library. B1½ titles 483, vols. 1747; B2 titles 1024, vols. 3981; MT titles 625, vols. 4584; NYP titles 1206, vols. 2239; ABr titles 695, vols. 2089. Music scores Br 2422; NYP 2585. Circulation 36,645. Home teachers provided by the state and also by local organizations.

North Carolina. Raleigh: Library of the School for the Blind. B1½ vols. 1080; NYP vols. 3000. Circulation 1000. Circulates to students in school and to former students.

**Ohio.* Cincinnati: Cincinnati Library Society for the Blind. B1½ titles 343, vols. 628; B2 titles 2, vols. 9; MT titles 469, vols. 678; NYP titles 2573, vols. 2881; ABr titles 45, vols. 70. Music scores Br 8; NYP 171. Circulation 5527. Has embossed catalogs. Home teachers on staff and provided by the state.

**Cleveland:* Cleveland Public Library. B1½ titles 215, vols. 370; B2 titles 300, vols. 404; MT titles 200, vols. 260; NYP titles 300, vols. 500; ABr titles 280, vols. 470. Circulation 9411. Home teachers provided by state and local organizations.

Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Library Commission. B1½ titles 226, vols. 844. Circulation 200. Home teacher provided by the state.

Pennsylvania. Overbrook: Library of Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. B1½ titles 188, vols. 2299; B2 titles 70, vols. 290; NYP titles 62, vols. 227; ABr titles 836, vols. 8505. Circulation 4256. Home teachers provided by a local organization.

**Philadelphia:* The Free Library of Philadelphia. B1½ titles 83, vols. 292; B2 vols. 181; MT vols. 4975; NYP vols. 577; ABr vols. 1376. Circulation 31,727. Embossed catalogs in American Braille and in Braille Grade 1½, for reference use. Home teachers provided by a local organization.

**Pittsburgh:* Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. B1½ vols. 544; B2 vols. 14; MT vols. 307; NYP vols. 755; ABr vols. 1300. Circulation 7500.

Sends books throughout western Pennsylvania. Has embossed catalogs. A loan collection of 1370 Moon type books from the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society is circulated from this library. Home teachers provided by a local organization.

Texas. Austin: Texas State Library. B1½ titles 105, vols. 171; MT titles 66, vols. 149; NYP titles 242, vols. 408. Circulation 733. Volunteer home teacher.

Utah. Ogden: Utah Circulating Library for the Blind. NYP titles 1, vols. 11; ABr titles 734, vols. 1239. Circulation approximately 600. Home teacher provided by the state.

Washington. Seattle: Seattle Public Library. B1½ titles 89, vols. 171; B2 titles 4, vols. 33; MT titles 88, vols. 236; NYP titles 293, vols. 461; ABr titles 195, vols. 351. Circulation 1397. Home teacher provided by a local organization.

**Canada.* Toronto: Library of Canadian National Institute for the Blind. B1½ titles 163, vols. 335; B2 titles 982, vols. 5585; MT titles 253, vols. 938; NYP titles 690, vols. 3225; ABr titles 16, vols. 31. Music scores Br 535; NYP 1150. Circulation 13,075. Sends books throughout Canada and Newfoundland. Has embossed catalogs for all but Moon type. Home teachers provided by Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Catalogs in the ordinary print are available for distribution from nearly every collection. It has been noted wherever embossed catalogs are available.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCILLE A. GOLDTHWAITE,
Chairman

*Asterisks indicate libraries with an annual circulation of over 5,000.

